

# A NEW GENUS (ASCIUS) AND TWO NEW SPECIES OF LEAFHOPPERS CLOSELY RELATED TO FLEXAMIA

(HOMOPTERA, CICADELLIDAE)

DWIGHT M. DELONG,  
The Ohio State University

Recent collecting in Mexico has brought to light large numbers of two rather common species of grass feeding leafhoppers closely related to species of *Flexamia*. Neither of these is apparently described and they do not seem to belong to *Flexamia*. A new genus is therefore being erected to include them at this time.

## Genus *Ascius* n. g.

Closely related to *Flexamia* and with a similar superficial appearance. The most striking difference is the presence of a distinct keel or carina extending from the margin of vertex half the length of the face. The vertex margin is thin and foliaceous either side of apex formed by the deep concavity between the keel and the vertex margin. In lateral view the apex of the vertex appears thick margined due to the carina. The vertex is long and distinctly concave between the raised sharp edged margins. Venation of elytra similar to *Flexamia* with the reflexed costal veinlets. Type of genitalia similar to *Flexamia*.

## Genotype *Ascius triangularis* n. sp.

All type material is in the author's collection.

## *Ascius triangularis* n. sp.

In general appearance resembling a sharp headed species of *Flexamia*. Length 5 mm.

Vertex strongly produced, twice as long at middle as basal width between the eyes, more than one-third longer than pronotum. Disc of vertex concave, margins thin, foliaceous on either side. Face with a broad sharp carina extending from apex of vertex to middle of face. Elytra with one cross nervure between the claval veins and with costal reflexed veins.

Color: White with yellowish and brownish stripes. Anterior half of vertex white with faint markings either side of apex. Posterior half striped longitudinally. There is a proximal pair of broad white stripes and a narrower white stripe either side. There are five broad, longitudinal white stripes on pronotum, each bordered with brown. The scutellum has two broad white longitudinal stripes separated by the median third which is darker. The elytra are pale and irregularly marked with dark brown pigment. The white areas are so arranged that the elytra appear striped obliquely. The area along the claval vein is rather broadly white and an area between the costa and discal cell is almost entirely white. Face dark brown with a white spot just beneath apex, mottled with brown and a white longitudinal stripe on face at ventral end of keel.

Genitalia: Female last ventral segment with posterior margins broadly roundedly produced to a central broad sunken tooth which is slightly notched at middle. An underlying membrane either side is produced beyond the last ventral segment. Male valve produced, triangular, a little wider at base than median length. Plates exceeding valve by about one-half their length, broad, with blunt rounded apices. Style rather short, widened at middle, apical portion narrowed to form a short blunt finger-like process which curves outwardly. Aedeagus with a single basal portion, divided at half its length, forming a pair of long divergent processes which are heavy at base, widely separated by a U-shaped notch and tapered to slender pointed apices. A dorsal process similar in shape but much more slender extends from near base to the anal tube.

Holotype male, allotype female and male paratypes collected at Iguala, Gro., Mexico, September 11, 1939, by C. C. Plummer and the author and October 25, 1941, by E. E. Good and the author. They occur upon herbaceous vegetation.

***Ascius latus* n. sp.**

In form and general appearance resembling *triangularis* but with vertex broad and short and face with a slightly raised keel. Length 5-5.5 mm.

Vertex broad, one-fourth longer on middle than basal width between eyes, slightly longer than pronotum. Disc of vertex shallowly broadly concave, keel of face scarcely produced and visible only at apex.

Color: Similar to *triangularis*, white with yellowish and brownish stripes. Vertex with apical third white, basal portion brown with a faint median white line and a pair of longitudinal proximal pale stripes either side near middle. Pronotum with seven pale longitudinal stripes each bordered with dark brown. Scutellum with a pale longitudinal stripe either side of median third which is brown, basal angles darker brown. Elytra white, veins brown. Claval area, disc, claval area at anterior portion of anteapical cells and apical margin marked with dark brown. Face brown with pale irrorations, white just beneath margin at apex.

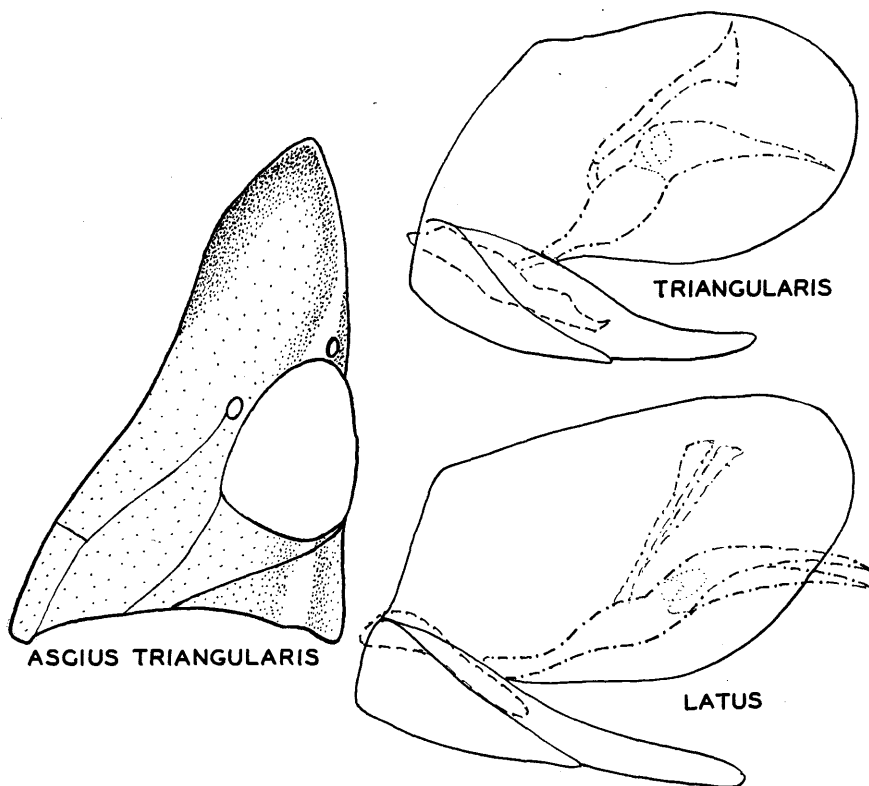


FIG. 1. Lateral view of head of *Ascius triangularis* (left); lateral view of genitalia of males of each species as labeled (right).

Genitalia: Male valve triangular, broader at base than median length. Plates triangular, broad at base, sloping to narrow, blunt, rounded apices. Style rather long and narrow with a rounded notch on outer margin just before apex forming an outwardly curved pointed finger-like process on inner margin. Aedeagus in general appearance similar to that of *triangularis* but shorter and broader. The single basal portion divides to form a pair of divergent processes which are heavy at base and taper to slender apices.

Although the genitalia of this and the former species are quite similar in structure, they are different, and externally the two species are quite different in structure.

Holotype male and paratype males collected at Iguala, Gro., Mexico, September 11, 1938, by C. C. Plummer and the author and October 25, 1941, by E. E. Good and the author.